

## RUIDOSO NEWS

FIRE DANGER  
MODERATE

JAN. 21, 2009 • OUR 62ND YEAR, NO. 75 • 75 CENTS

## INSIDE



## Cook named to House

■ Succeeds Dub Williams  
following Williams' departureDIANNE STALLINGS  
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

Ruidoso attorney Zachary J. Cook was appointed Friday by Gov. Bill Richardson to serve as State Representative in House District 56.

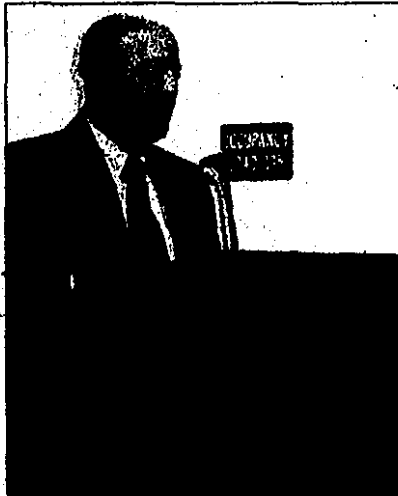
Cook replaces W.C. "Dub" Williams, who announced his retirement earlier this week.

"Zachary Cook is a fine attorney and well respected in the community," the governor said. "I am confident he will serve the people of Lincoln and Otero Counties with

honor and respect as W.C. Dub Williams did for nearly 15 years."

Cook joined the H. John Underwood Ltd. law firm in Ruidoso in 2004. He is a graduate of the University of New Mexico School of Law and holds a Bachelors degree from University of New Mexico. Cook also earned a Masters degree in International Management and serves as Capitan village attorney. He and his wife Angie Schneider-Cook, also an attorney, live in Ruidoso.

Cook, a Republican, was the nominee sent to the governor by Lincoln County and Otero County commissioners. The district covers portions of both counties. Cook also



was Williams' choice as a successor.

Williams, a Republican from

Ruidoso attorney Zachary Cook was Dub Williams' choice to succeed Williams as a state representative

Glencoe, served as State Representative since 1995. Cook's appointment is effective immediately and he will serve until the next general election.

To honor Williams' selection, the votes by both commissions were unanimous despite other nominees being submitted. Educator and Democrat Carolyn Dawn Provencher was nominated by her party in both counties and the name of former District 51 state representative Mario Torres also was submitted in Otero County.

## CASTING CALL



Teresa Montez and daughter Johanna Montez of Ruidoso were among 670 people who responded to a casting call Saturday for the film, *The Book of Eli*, being partially shot in Carrizozo. About 100 people were to be chosen. A press release indicated the producers were looking for long hair and/or dreadlocks.

Wastewater authority  
taken off the table

Councils vow to strengthen Joint Use Board

DIANNE STALLINGS  
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Reacting to audit criticism over the past few years, councilors from Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs have inched toward the formation of an autonomous entity to run the regional wastewater treatment plant.

But in a special joint meeting of the councils Friday, the councilors agreed to separate the wastewater authority with rate setting and taxing power was discarded. They agreed informally instead to strengthen the Joint Use Board that now governs the plant owned by the two municipalities, and to modify the existing joint powers agreement under which the JUB operates.

"By taking no action, they signaled to attorney H. John Underwood, Ruidoso's lobbyist and legal advisor on JUB issues, to

drop his pursuit of legislation to allow a wastewater authority to be created.

In a frank discussion of issues, concerns and perceptions, Tom Martin, Ruidoso Downs city attorney, laid out his board's position.

"What concerns us on this side of the table is when we look at proposals, Ruidoso Downs has to take into consideration the difference in its population and general economics of its citizens, who do not have the general level of income (as those in Ruidoso). We have to consider the impact of our decisions," Martin said. "We have to do something to amend or get the JUB to where it is an effective agency and can make decisions without funneling everything back to each council, which causes delays."

See JUB, page 5A

## Juárez braces for vigilantes

DANIEL BORUNDA  
El Paso Times

A group calling itself the Juárez Citizens Command is threatening to strike back against lawlessness that has gripped the city for more than a year by killing one criminal a day until order is restored.

The announcement by the shadowy organization is the first known act of organized vigilantism in Juárez.

The city's police and the Mexican army have been unable to stop a plague of killings, extortion, carjackings and other crime. Last year, more than 1,600 people were slain in Juárez.

"Better the death of a bad person, than that bad person continue contaminating our region," the group, named Comando Ciudadano por Juárez, or CCJ in Spanish, stated in a news release spread last Thursday on the Internet.

The legitimacy of the previously unknown organization remains in question. In recent years, rival Mexican drug traffickers, activists and others have used the Internet to spread information, propaganda and threats.

The CCJ stated that it is not linked to any political party and that it is paid for by business owners fed up with crime. The group said it would issue a manifesto in the coming days urging people to join its "post-revolutionary movement" and would set up a system to receive information about criminals.

"Our mission is to finish each 24 hours with the life of a criminal," the CCJ stated. "The hour has come to stop this disorder in Juárez."

Juárez city government spokesman Jaime Torres said authorities were

See JUÁREZ, page 5A

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REGISTRATION!

ENMU - Ruidoso

Ruidoso

## Let It Snow



# Officials: Major redesign needed to prevent future flooding

■ Intersection at Hull Road and Paradise Canyon subject of a feasibility review

DIANNE STALLINGS  
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If a major redesign of the intersection of Hull Road and Paradise Canyon is not undertaken, flooding will recur and repeatedly tear out culverts and pavement, Ruidoso officials agree.

The intersection, which involves the Cedar Creek tributary into the Ruidoso River, was the site of a drowning in 1988, when the owner of a chicken take-out business washed off the road in his vehicle and was swept into a deep drainage.

Last July, the pavement at the Paradise intersection with Starlite Road was destroyed, a water wheel at the drainage was submerged and culverts along the tributary down Paradise were ripped out and washed away.

Village Manager Dan O. Higgins said a feasibility review was conducted last week with state Department of Transportation officials about funding that probably would be available in two years.

"This is only at the 'is it feasible' status, not a firm request for funding and approval," he said Tuesday. "The thought is that to improve drainage for Paradise, we would install leftover 6-foot-by-6 foot box culverts and possibly 10-foot-by-8 foot culverts from the temporary bridge repairs to dramatically improve drainage at the Paradise/Hull/Starlite area."

The new culverts would replace existing 24-inch

culverts, he said.

To accommodate that size, the roadway would be raised, possibly as much as 6 feet, Higgins said.

"That intersection routinely gets shut down due to the minimal drainage the 24-inch culverts provide," he said. "This would probably raise the roadway in that area by about 6 feet. Overall cost for drainage improvements is approximately \$273,000. The cost for Paradise Overlay would be about \$327,000, bring the total for both projects to roughly \$600,000."

Higgins said the only possibility staff sees to accomplish the project earlier would be if it was funded through the draft Public Works Bill federal officials and congressional representatives are debating as part of the national economic recovery.

"In any case, before a formal request goes through for either option, we will take it before Council," he said.

In other business at the council's meeting last week, Councilor Ron Hardeman said he'd like to see a programmable electric sign at every entrance into the village.

Several years ago, the village bought three signs, but one was damaged. Councilors asked Higgins to check on the cost of buying at least one more and

he reported a range of \$17,000 to \$20,000.

"With the budget sitting well, it's a small expenditure and I recommend we do it," he told councilors.

Hardeman said the price was considerably less a few years ago. Higgins said the last group of signs was paid for in part with lodgers tax money, because the signs welcome visitors with information about events, as well as fire and water conservation levels, and warnings about deer near roadways.

Higgins said he will review proposals and take the item to the Lodgers Tax Committee.

In other reports, councilors heard that:

- a vehicle fleet assessment is nearly complete and Higgins said the age of many of the vehicles is alarming.

- the camera review of sewer lines is about 75 percent complete and more damage from the July 27 flood was detected than originally anticipated.

Breaks were found, along with crushed lines and broken clay pipes, he said.

- about four dozen private owner applicants are working with the Natural Resource Conservation Service on stream bank repair and stabilization projects as a result of the July 27 flood.

- an inventory in the vil-



RUIDOSO NEWS FILE PHOTO

Pavement is washed out at Paradise Canyon and Starlite during the 2008 flood.

lage Solid Waste ed throughout the village Staff is finalizing recom-  
Department showed that serving 7,445 accounts, of mendations for a revised  
3,397 dumpsters are locat- which 576 are commercial. fee structure.

Send a

## Valentine Message to your Special Someone

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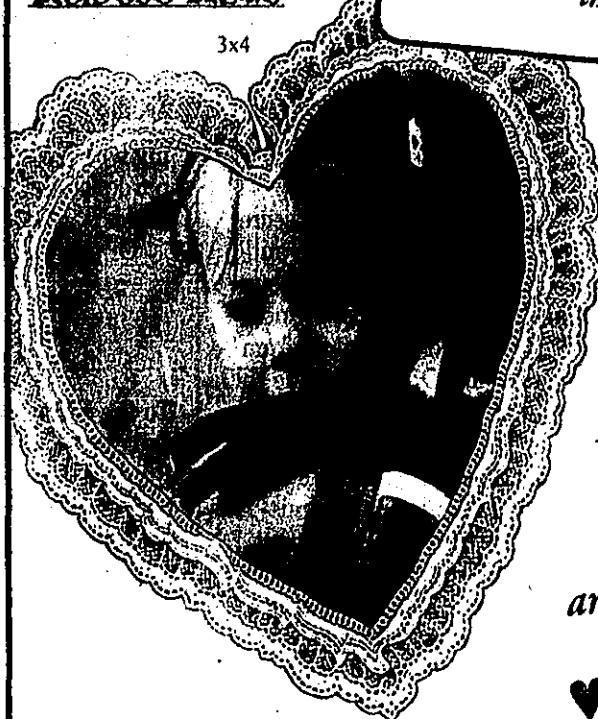
Bill -

Thank you for putting up with me.  
I love you more today than  
the day we met!

♥ Elaine

RUIDOSO NEWS

3x4



Honey Bunny -

I'm looking forward  
to when you'll come  
visit me again! You  
are the light of my life!

♥ Grandma Meredith

### VALENTINE'S DRAWING

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# RUIDOSO NEWS OPINION

PAGE 4A

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WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21, 2009

## RUIDOSO NEWS

Terry J. Fitzwater, publisher

Marty Racine, editor

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### OUR OPINION

## Barack Obama, 44th president

**O**n the day Barack Obama was sworn in as the nation's 44th president, The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 332 points.

We're not drawing a parallel, merely a symbolic coincidence that highlights just one of the new president's long list of challenges.

Whether you voted for the Democratic senator from Illinois or not, he is now your president. He deserves your support and prayers, if you have them, and he deserves the benefit of the doubt until his policies begin to play out on national and global stages.

We hope he succeeds, for America's security, for its moral and economic standing.

Today, in the cold light of a

new year, all the heated campaign rhetoric of 2008 reads like stale footnotes to history. As president, Obama will be tugged toward the political center, and it is up to Republicans to rediscover and speak from their core values – fiscal, primarily – and to Democratic leaders in Congress to drop their petty power plays and cut the man some slack.

Amidst all our troubles, we celebrate the significance of Obama's ascendancy, express belief in the American spirit and find hope for bi-partisan, common-sense approaches to our challenges.

We also suggest patience. Along the way, there will be plenty of time to hold our 44th president accountable.

## Time for another state Constitutional Convention

**N**o Watergate-sounding name has appeared for the investigation of Gov. Bill Richardson and several associates over whether political donations from CDR Financial Products of Beverly Hills, Calif., had anything to do with CDR getting work relating to financing state transportation projects. The lack of a pithy name is unfortunate.

References to the situation become more difficult.

As a public service, here are a few suggestions, offered in the spirit of spicing up the dialogue: Billgate? Bondgate? CDRgate? GRIPgate?

Whether these are appropriate names, the structure of the situation resembles the most famous New Mexico "gate" of all: Lobogate, the 1979 scandal in the University of New Mexico's basketball program.

Quite by accident, I explained Lobogate before it happened. It was in a story for the now-defunct *New Mexico Business Journal*. The story stepped through reported basketball budgets at UNM and New Mexico State.

Lobo basketball was a small operation with just a few people. It was very profitable; UNM returned more than half its gross, \$471,148, to general revenue for the 1977-78 year. The people involved were living a nice life. As a start, UNM coach Norm Ellenberger's free car was a white Cadillac Seville.

In such situations – small, lucrative, profitable and a nice life – the temptation, indeed, the incentive to fudge the rules can become overwhelming if some of the principals are, uh, ethically challenged.

I saw the same thing during a brief tenure at an independently owned radio station. The part-owner manager was big on writing checks to support his own operation. There was a brokerage house specializing in penny stocks that found Albuquerque too small and boring, so they moved to Denver and crashed a state government, the state treasurer kick-back

scandal has two former treasurers in jail. Currently, former Secretary of State Rebecca Vigil-Giron is being investigated with regard to the fate of \$3 million that was supposed to be used to educate voters. A new civil lawsuit alleges "pay-to-play" activity at the Educational Retirement Board. A new audit of the Region III Housing Authority adds to the list of inappropriate fun there. The trademark infringement suit against the Rail Runner provides low comedy.

In New Mexico, the secretary of state and the state treasurer

are among executive branch officials elected separately from the governor. Others include the state auditor, the attorney general and the commissioner of public lands and members of the public regulation commission. They are all independent fiefdoms. With the wrong people involved, and money sloshing around, all sorts of things can go wrong. Sometimes things can go wrong even before the wrong people fill the office, as was the case last year with the joke PRC candidacy of Jerome Block, Jr.

"Governing New Mexico" is the latest version of the book long used as the text for New Mexico politics classes around the state. My edition, published by the University of New Mexico Press in 2006, starts by reviewing the ridiculous history of the New Mexico constitution, which has undergone what is called "a slow but steady remodeling" with around 150 amendments in less than a century of statehood.

However, the long ballot remains in place. The long ballot creates these fiefdoms and therefore invites corruption. It should go away. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the 1969 Constitutional Convention. That gathering wanted a short ballot. A 1989 New Mexico First Town Hall proposed a new Constitutional Convention.

Another 20 years later, it's long past time for serious discussion of another Constitutional Convention.

## First day, into the fray...



Doug McLeod  
January 21, 2009

### YOUR OPINION

## Washington, D.C.'s, phony pageant

To the editor:

**AM I THE ONLY ONE** who noticed something odd about the get-togethers of all the living U.S. presidents and their wives, prior to and during inauguration day?

Both times that I observed those reunions they were a picture of perfect harmony: happy smiles on everyone's faces, embraces and mutual patting of shoulder's and backs without a hint of either phoniness or hidden rancor.

And yet, until as recently as the day before last November's election, the Democratic presidents, past and present, had nothing good to say about the one who is retiring today.

In fact, in the case of Carter and Clinton, they traveled the world – in some cases the countries of our sworn enemies – to vilify George Bush and the policies of his administration. Has all this venom and hatred suddenly evaporated like magic? Has Bush, as a gesture in keeping with presidential tradition, pardoned his former adversaries?

Or are we witnessing a

uniquely American phenomenon manifesting during such a festive event as the inauguration of a new president of the United States; a rigidly ceremonial event that allows no deviation from established protocol?

Or are we simply experiencing a common aspect of politics where, in the pursuit of power, any means is permissible? Any attack, no matter how personal, vile or questionable of validity is fair.

And in the end, when losers and winners have been established, all is forgotten, there are no hard feelings, and the issues, no matter how stridently fought over in the campaign, no longer matter.

And, of course, all the campaign promises that helped the winner to victory largely evade realization.

I don't know. Something doesn't add up. Don't you just sometimes get the feeling of having been had? It almost seems like every four years we are treated to a pageant full of tradition, flag-waving and pomp that is designed to help us forget what an unsavory game politics

really is.

E. (Eric) Ehrich  
Nogdt

### Glamour politics

To the editor:

**THE POLITICAL CIRCUS** clowns are opening their arms in acceptance in New York, in Illinois, in New Mexico and even in Washington, D.C.

Watch closely as they and other states join in the action as they continue to exceed their budgets and continue big-time spending while reaching for Obama's helping hand.

In the meantime, the Hollywood Halo shines brightly over Washington, D.C., signifying the total surrender of the principles of freedom and liberty along with the death throes of this freedom-loving country. Socialism has arrived in full glory at our nation's capital. Is it too late to recover from this spear wound at the very heart of this wonderful country as instituted by the glamour crowd?

I pray not. God help us.

T.E. Fry  
Las Cruces

## Best party spot around still standing

To the editor:

**IT'S THE BEST PARTY** spot in Ruidoso. Heck, it may be the best spot in Lincoln County. It is secluded yet right in the middle of Ruidoso.

How do we know this? Because my wife and I own property adjacent to the 34-foot high, abandoned water tank on Tank Road. We've found liquor bottles, beer cans, clothes, shoes, a condom, burnt firewood, and other debris around the tank and on our lot. Did I mention the vulgar graffiti?

For years and years, there have been no restrictive (solutions) to keep partygoers away from this tank. Rocks are commonly placed against the tank high enough to reach the ladder that leads to the top. Let the party begin!

About three years ago, my wife and I were interested in purchasing a lot to build a home on. Dan Bolin, a local Realtor and the owner of the lot at the time, informed us that he was told that the tank was going to be removed. It was an employee of a Ruidoso company that had been contacted by the village that told him this.

We did our due diligence. We contacted Ken Mosley, then-director of the Ruidoso Water and Wastewater Department. We met with Mr. Mosley and he told us to write a letter to him concerning the tank. We did as

he requested and after meeting with him later, he called us and left us a message on our phone machine which we still have. He stated that the village was going to move the tank (and also another tank) because it was inoperable and could not be operable without major reconstruction. With this information, we decided to purchase the lot from Mr. Bolin for \$45,000 plus closing costs.

The tank has still not been removed. Subsequently, Jim Hufstetler, a local appraiser, said to us that it would be a mistake to build our home on the lot on Tank Road because of the tank. We have paid Shaw Engineering for a survey and house plans that we are unable to use. We have had a Realtor try to sell the property for about a year but has been unable to do so because of the tank. We are stuck with a beautiful lot with this risky, leaded tank next to our property.

Now, after nearly three years, the village informs us that they are going to reuse the tank for freshwater or part of a sewage project. Randall Camp, public works director for the village, recently stated in a deposition that it was OK to use the tank for freshwater even though it contains lead. Maybe it is OK, but who wants to drink water from a leaded tank that has been inoperable and abandoned?

for years? Are there any other leaded tanks currently being used? Are there any other leaded tanks being planned to be put back into use? What will be the cost to the taxpayers? And finally, whose teenagers will be on top of the tank partying tonight?

These and other questions need to be answered by village officials. Mr. Camp can be reached at 257-5544. Mr. Daniel Bryant, the village attorney, can be reached at 258-2202.

Les and Ann Adkins  
Austin

### OUR RIGHT TO KNOW The First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech or the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

#### Open Meetings

In recognition of the fact that a representative government is dependent upon an informed electorate, it is declared to be public policy of this state that all persons are entitled to the greatest possible information regarding the affairs of government and the official acts of those officers and employees who represent them. The formation of public policy or the conduct of business by vote shall not be conducted in closed meetings.

All meetings of any public body, except the legislature and the courts, shall be public meetings, and all persons so desiring shall be permitted to attend and listen to the deliberations and proceedings.



## JUB

FROM PAGE 1A

The JUB consists of two representatives from each of the two municipalities and one Lincoln County commissioner.

An Authority with the power to tax, set rates and control service connections concerns Ruidoso Downs officials, Martin said. Control of hook-ups amounts to control of the growth of a community, he said.

"We want to be able to control our own destiny regarding growth," Martin emphasized.

"We don't believe we're in a position to do much of a rate increase because of economics," he said. "Giving the power to a third-party Authority to set rates or levy a tax to pay a bond issue, I'm not sure we can justify to our citizens or if they could take that impact."

Martin also balked at a provision he said attorneys generally like that would allow an Authority to place a lien on property for unpaid wastewater treatment bills without notice and with no statute of limitations.

"That's an intolerable situation from every aspect," he said. Banks would hesitate to loan and title companies to insure a title.

"The conclusion the council and administration came to was we may be better off abandoning the idea of an authority and looking to modify the joint powers agreement," he said. "We can address protections we feel we need. There is no question, we both realize we have to sit down and get it fixed."

Martin sheepishly admitted he initially favored the concept of a wastewater authority, "but I've backed off the authority idea." Legislation would be written for statewide use and who knows what provisions might be added before legislators are through, he said.

Ruidoso Councilor Greg Cory, acting chairman in the absence of Mayor L. Ray Nunley, said while the



JUB legal advisor H. John Underwood, right, speaks to Ruidoso councilors Michele Rebstock, Greg Cory, Angel Shaw and Don Williams during Friday's joint meeting with Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs councils. Underwood was told not to pursue a wastewater authority.

village may not be ready to entirely eliminate the concept of an Authority, councilors would prefer salvaging the JUB.

Ruidoso Councilor Angel Shaw said she didn't think an Authority would work and urged that councilors from both towns communicate directly to ensure their thoughts are not filtered through staff and attorneys.

Before the discussion was over, councilors from the neighboring towns agreed to write down their issues and proposed solutions, and exchange the lists before the boards meet again. A deadline of Feb. 1 was set to exchange the lists.

Ruidoso Downs Mayor Tom Armstrong and Councilor Dan Holman said the idea of the city becoming a customer and Ruidoso taking over the entire operation also should be dropped, because they would not agree to that change.

Other questions remain if an autonomous JUB emerges on the involvement of Lincoln County on a future board, the role of the Mescalero Apache Tribe as partner or customer, how the existing plant assets would be purchased from the village, how the existing bonds would be handled, as well

as increased overhead costs.

Holman said he always preferred Mescalero as a partner, who could bring federal dollars to the table. Representation on the JUB would give the tribe more input on its own growth, the same as the municipalities, he said.

Cory said no discussions with the tribe have occurred to date.

Councilors also agreed to ensure they speak with one voice on the treatment plant issue, including a joint letter to be sent to legislators, congressmen and president-elect Barack Obama, about being included in the Omnibus Bill for public works projects.

Underwood said he read the definition of eligible projects and the plant fits the description perfectly, including providing local stimulus, infrastructure and jobs.

While Ruidoso Downs councilors were noncommittal on the proposed legislation that would allow an increase in the environmental gross receipts tax as a means of generating revenue to help pay off part of an estimated \$40 million debt for the new treatment plant, Ruidoso councilors told Underwood to continue his efforts on that bill.

Cory said he wouldn't want to impose more GRT,

if Ruidoso Downs didn't follow suit, because of the imbalance the situation would create for the business communities in the two towns.

To cover bonds already issued for a portion of the wastewater plant project, Ruidoso Downs increased property taxes and Ruidoso imposed a hefty \$32 a month residential utility fee. Cory explained that two thirds of the village's utility customers are not on sewer service and a user fee ensured that seasonal visitors shared in the cost of meeting the peak demand.

A required reduction in nitrogen and phosphorous contaminants in the plant's discharge into the Ruidoso River, and connected lawsuit settlement, ties the JUB to a massive rehabilitation of the plant.

Near the end of the joint meeting, Ruidoso Councilor Don Williams said without moving ahead on creating an authority, the session was all talk and no real progress. His motion to direct Underwood to stick with efforts to pass the connected legislation failed to muster a second.

Ruidoso Downs Councilor Gary Williams said he feels Ruidoso officials often take a Big Brother attitude toward his city and discount issues raised by his council or representatives.

"As a community, we feel we are as important as any entity within the county," he said "Our issues should be addressed and we may have some good approaches."

He noted that Cory his-

torically has pushed for better communication with, and inclusion of, Ruidoso Downs.

In related action, councilors from Ruidoso authorized Underwood to continue to pursue an amendment to legislation, an approach preferred by officials with the state Department of Finance and Administration, that would raise the cap on the amount of environmental gross receipts tax that can be levied from 1/16th of a cent to 1 percent.

Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs now each levy 1/16th of a cent to pay off bonds that were used to construct a regional landfill south of Alamogordo.

The amendment as proposed would allow incremental increases annually of 1/16th of a cent by council action without referendum, but legislators could increase the increment amounts to allow up to the full 1 percent in one move.

Even if the amendment passes, the councils are not required to use the EGRT tax levy.

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Rita's Salon on the Hill has added a revolutionary new organic beauty line. Intelligent Nutrients was created by Hans Rothelbecker, the founder of Aveda. "Many of my clients live an organic progressive life-style and have been requesting organic beauty products for some time," says Rita. "When the Intelligent Nutrients Certified Organic Collection was launched, I knew that I found the right line to bring into my salon."

intelligentnutrients.com

## JUÁREZ

FROM PAGE 1A

aware of the news release and were taking it seriously.

"We know the worries of citizens," Torres said. "We are trying to fight crime with Joint Operation Chihuahua involving all three levels of government. We take all messages seriously, but this is not the right path to confront crime."

Fear, frustration and anger over rising crime have been boiling for more than a year, causing some Juarenses to move to El Paso to avoid becoming victims. The violence has continued despite the presence of an estimated 2,000 soldiers and federal police.

Symbolic of the frustration, a story on the threat by the CCJ to kill one criminal a day, on La Polaka.com tabloid news Web site, asked in a headline

"Why only one ...?"

The violence has continued into the new year with more than 40 homicides in

stead of organized crime.

Murders last week suggest that some alleged extortionists were marked

*"The hour has come to stop this disorder in Juárez," says the vigilante group, CCJ.*

the Juárez area since Jan. 1. Bank robberies, auto thefts and restaurant holdups also have become common.

During the past year, extortionists targeted business owners, teachers, medical professionals and others as crime surged partly because of a turf war between the Sinaloa and Juárez drug cartels.

Juárez officials previously said that some extortion cases, including the targeting of schoolteachers' Christmas bonuses, was believed to be the work of neighborhood thugs in-

stead of organized crime.

On Jan. 5, the body of Jose Ivan Vasquez Lopez, 43, was found in a trash drum with his head cut off. On Jan. 7, the body of Ricardo Arturo Alvarado Contreras, 45, was found in a vacant lot with his hands chopped off.

Chihuahua state police confirmed that in both cases, notes claiming the men were extortionists killed by La Linea were left at the scene. "It is under

investigation," said state police spokesman Arturo Sandoval.

The violence in Juárez is part of a nationwide spike in drug-related violence and other crime that even has some in Mexico, which has been staunchly against capital punishment, debating the implementation of the death penalty.

Daniel Borunda may be reached at [dborunda@elpasotimes.com](mailto:dborunda@elpasotimes.com).

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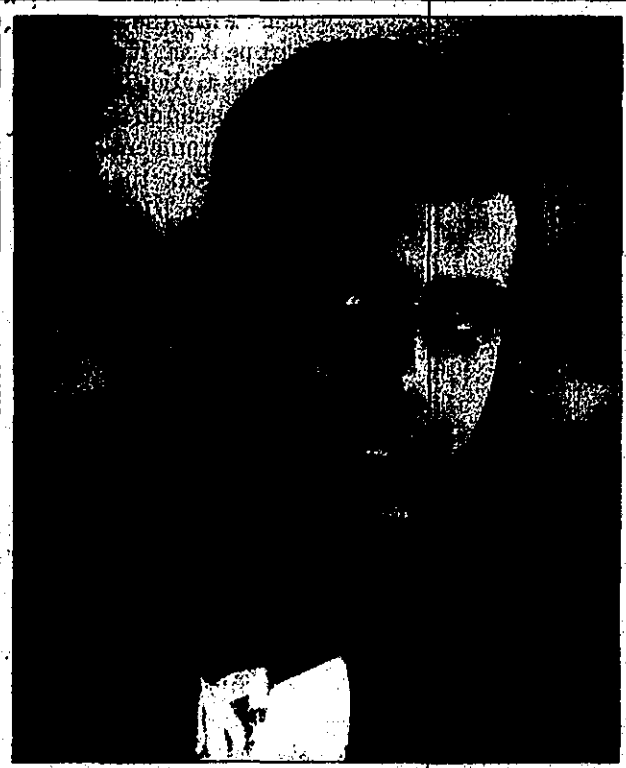
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# RUIDOSO NEWS EDUCATION

PAGE 6A

CALL US: TODD FUQUA, EDUCATION EDITOR • 257-4001 • TODDF@RUIDOSONEWS.COM

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21, 2009



## Teen Spotlight

Sponsored by Lincoln County DWI Prevention

**T**een Spotlight features area teens that have made a difference in their community. Cody Ventura is the next teen in the Spotlight. Cody is the son of John Paul Ventura and is currently in his junior year at Carrizozo High School. Ventura is involved in a variety of activities at his school and in his community.

At Carrizozo High School, Ventura is active in sports and has participated in football, basketball and track. He has been named to the All-District basketball and track teams. In addition to playing sports, Ventura finds time to be active in student government and has served as class representative. Ventura is also active in Future Farmers of America. It is obvious Ventura is busy with extracurricular activities at school, yet he still hits the books and maintains a 3.8 grade point average.

Ventura is involved in the community. He par-

ticipates in 4-H and is a Junior Rotarian. Ventura also attended this year's Light the Fire Youth Summit. The Summit encourages students to give back to the community through service projects. One area where Ventura helps is the Mobile Food Pantry. He assists when the delivery is made to Carrizozo by unloading the truck, sorting food, and carrying food to patron's vehicles. It's amazing that he still finds time to ride BMX, golf and snowboard.

Success is linked to the strong support system which Ventura has in his life. He lists his father, his uncle Pat, Chris and LeBron James as influences in his life. Ventura is also busy planning for the future. His plans include attending college at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces and pursuing a Bachelor's degree in engineering. Lincoln County is lucky to have Ventura as part of the community.

## New middle school nearing completion

TODD FUQUA  
toddf@ruidosonews.com

As work on the new Ruidoso Middle School continues, the Ruidoso School Board heard from Jack McCaw of ENMU-Ruidoso, who spoke of a forest restoration project going on in conjunction with construction at last week's board meeting.

McCaw discussed a tree-thinning effort at the construction site on Warrior Drive, and stated plans also

call for the creation of an outdoor learning center, including lesson plans, a trail system, monitoring of the forest and creation of a wetland usable as a classroom.

Because the wetland area is on both sides of Warrior Drive, McCaw stated rerouting of the water may be necessary.

Superintendent Bea Etta Harris reported progress on various construction projects in the district, stating the track at Ruidoso High School

is now completed and striped in time for the track season, with landscape work pending.

Harris also commented the new middle school will likely be completed by the end of February.

The board approved a mentorship program as presented by associate superintendent Patty White. The program will provide professional development for first-year teachers in the district "to ensure the retention of these new teachers."

## HEAD START BUZZY BEES



**Above**, the morning Buzzy Bees for December at Nob Hill Early Childhood Center: (l-r) Elena Sainz, Sanida Maguire, Trinity Munoz, Ismeal Diego, Andres Candelira, Uriah Kraft, Julio Romero, Jael Gonzalez-Hernandez.

**Left**, the afternoon Buzzy Bees for December (l-r) Bianca Hernandez and Ismeal Diego

COURTESY

## EDUCATION BRIEFS

### Class of 1989

Members of the Ruidoso High School graduating class of 1989 are encouraged to contact Tracy (Brewer) Burge at tracyshaye@yahoo.com or phone at 575-317-8078.

The schedule for the reunion is as follows: Friday, June 12 - Meet and greet at Farley's.

Saturday, June 13 - Tour of high school, get together at park with pizza served, dinner/dance/awards (for alumni and spouses and/or significant other)

Sunday, June 14 - Golf at Cree Meadows Country Club.

### Wirth graduates

Sarah Wirth, of Ruidoso, was

among approximately 255 students that received degrees from Hardin-Simmons University recently. She received a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree during commencement exercises on Dec. 13.

### Baby signing

Parents of young children, ages 6 months through 5 years old, who

wish to better communicate with them are encouraged to attend baby signing classes at the Ruidoso Public Library from 11 a.m. to noon, Jan. 24, 31 and Feb. 7.

The classes are taught by Pacasha Younger, who communicates with her young daughter through sign language, and will be held in the downstairs classroom at the Ruidoso Public Library.

### Lunch menus

Parents of school-aged children attending public schools in Ruidoso can view a weekly posting of school lunch menus on the Internet at: [www.ruidoso.k12.nm.us.com](http://www.ruidoso.k12.nm.us.com). Menus for parents of children attending Capitan schools can also be viewed at [www.capitan.k12.nm.us](http://www.capitan.k12.nm.us).

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NEW LOCATION



# Governor, legislators wrangle over 'fiscal restraint'

WALTER RUBEL  
Las Cruces Sun-News

SANTA FE — Gov. Bill Richardson opened his State of the State Address on Tuesday by explaining the state's tough financial situation and declaring this to be the "year of fiscal restraint." He then went on to outline a lengthy and ambitious agenda that included a slew of new tax incentives and spending programs.

"He has a lot of threads in there on hope and need, but is short on funding," said Sen. John Arthur Smith, D-Deming, chairman of the Legislative Finance Committee. "There's a lot of need out there and a lot of new ideas that he suggested, but how are we going to pay for it?"

Sen. Vernon Asbill, R-Carlsbad, he didn't see how the governor's proposals fit with the theme of fiscal restraint.

"The governor continues to be a little ambitious in this time of fiscal restraint," Asbill said. "He mentioned a couple of issues that were to expand on some agencies and some new initiatives, and it's going to be very difficult to support those, no matter how much they're needed, because of the fiscal restraints we're going to be in."

The legislative session opens with the state dealing with a \$450 million budget shortfall in the current fiscal year, and facing the prospect of reduced revenue in the upcoming years due to declining income from oil and gas royalties. Richardson proposed closing the budget gap through a combination of cuts to previously approved capital outlay projects, targeted budget cuts in state agencies and dipping into the state's reserve fund, which he described as the "rainy-day fund," and said has been at 10 percent or higher throughout his term.

"The engine of this economic plan is a strong, responsible and balanced budget that targets cuts where we can manage it, maintains services where we need it and makes strategic investments to create more jobs," the governor said.

House Minority Leader Tom Taylor, R-Farmington, said state reserves were not as great as Richardson suggests because he includes separate pools of money such as the tobacco settlement fund.

"It certainly is raining," Taylor said, in response to Richardson's comment that

we need to dip into the rainy-day fund. "What I think it's important to recognize here is the rainy day that we're experiencing now is actually going to be a rainy few years."

Richardson laid out a four-part "economic security plan" that he said would:

- Create and attract high-paying "green collar jobs."
- Build a clean-energy workforce.
- Expand innovation, and,
- Provide help to working families.

The first part of his plan would establish a research applications center using state labs and universities to partner with the commercial sector, increase the Renewable Energy Production Tax Credit, expand the Advanced Energy Tax Credit and extend tax credits for small businesses.

As part of the second plank, Richardson said he would issue an executive order creating a "Green Jobs Cabinet" to develop and train a clean-energy workforce.

Richardson's innovation proposals include production of a "green grid" to transmit solar and wind power. He also proposed a new law to create carbon trading in the region, which he said would reduce greenhouse gasses. And he suggested extending the hybrid vehicle tax credit.

The final part of Richardson's plan includes expanding the school breakfast program, construction of a new food bank and doubling the Child Day Care tax credit. He proposed health insurance reforms that would mandate that insurance companies spend at least \$8.50 directly on care for every \$10 they bring in.

On other topics, the governor called for domestic partnership protections for gay and lesbian couples; new laws to crack down on gangs, drunken and drugged driving and domestic violence; same-day voter registration; and ethics reform that would include a new ethics commission, campaign finance limits and lobbying restrictions.

"Some are offering a pessimistic view of our future," Richardson said. "But pessimism never built a road, never taught a student and never immunized a child. It never protected our streets, never created a job and pessimism will not solve this crisis."

"Our task this session is not just to cut spending, pass two budgets and go home. Our task must be to

## Notebook: Jennings retained

Tim Jennings, D-Roswell, retained his position as Senate president pro tem when eight Democrats joined with Republicans to defeat Carlos Cisneros, D-Questa, 23-19.

Cisneros had been the Democrats' choice coming out of the pre-session caucus. Many Democrats were angry at Jennings for recording a message in support of Republican Lee Rawson in his campaign against Steve Fischmann in November. In accepting the nomination, Jennings urged the party to come together.

"There might be a little divide somewhere, but that's over now," Jennings said. "I am a Democrat and I'm just here to represent this body."

He said both the Democrats and Republicans had party leaders, and his job was to "make sure

that the Senate is run in a fair and orderly manner."

While many legislators broke out their Sunday best for the opening day of the session, none could match the sartorial splendor of Sen. Bill Sharer, R-Farmington. He was dressed in a suit, white shirt and bow tie up top, with a dark green plaid kilt down below, complete with a rabbit fur pocket in front.

Sharer explained that, in a year when the state is facing a \$450 million shortfall, it was appropriate that he was wearing the official dress of Scotland.

"The Scots are world renowned for being frugal," Sharer said. "In our current economic session, frugal should be the watchword of our session."

keep building a vibrant, optimistic New Mexico that looks over the horizon with hope and anticipation."

Sen. Steve Neville, R-Farmington, said while there were some good suggestions in Richardson's speech, there was a lot of concern in Farmington about the domestic partnership proposal.

Smith said members of the Finance Committee

have not yet put a dollar amount on all of the governor's new proposals.

"We've got to develop alternative sources of revenue in the state of New Mexico, so I'm not going to just flat say no to all of these suggestions. It's an ambitious agenda and it's an expensive agenda. There's a price tag that goes with that, and I guess my only concern was he

sort of kicked that football, in terms of how you're going to fund that, into somebody else's field.

"Obviously, if they all went through they would require a tax increase — a major one."

Richardson made only brief mention of his withdrawal from consideration for cabinet secretary, say-

ing, "I know there are some legislators here who were looking forward to my departure and not having to deal with me this session. I'm sorry to disappoint. I'll try to make it up to you somehow."

Walter Rubel can be reached at [wrubel@lcsun-news.com](mailto:wrubel@lcsun-news.com); 541-5441.

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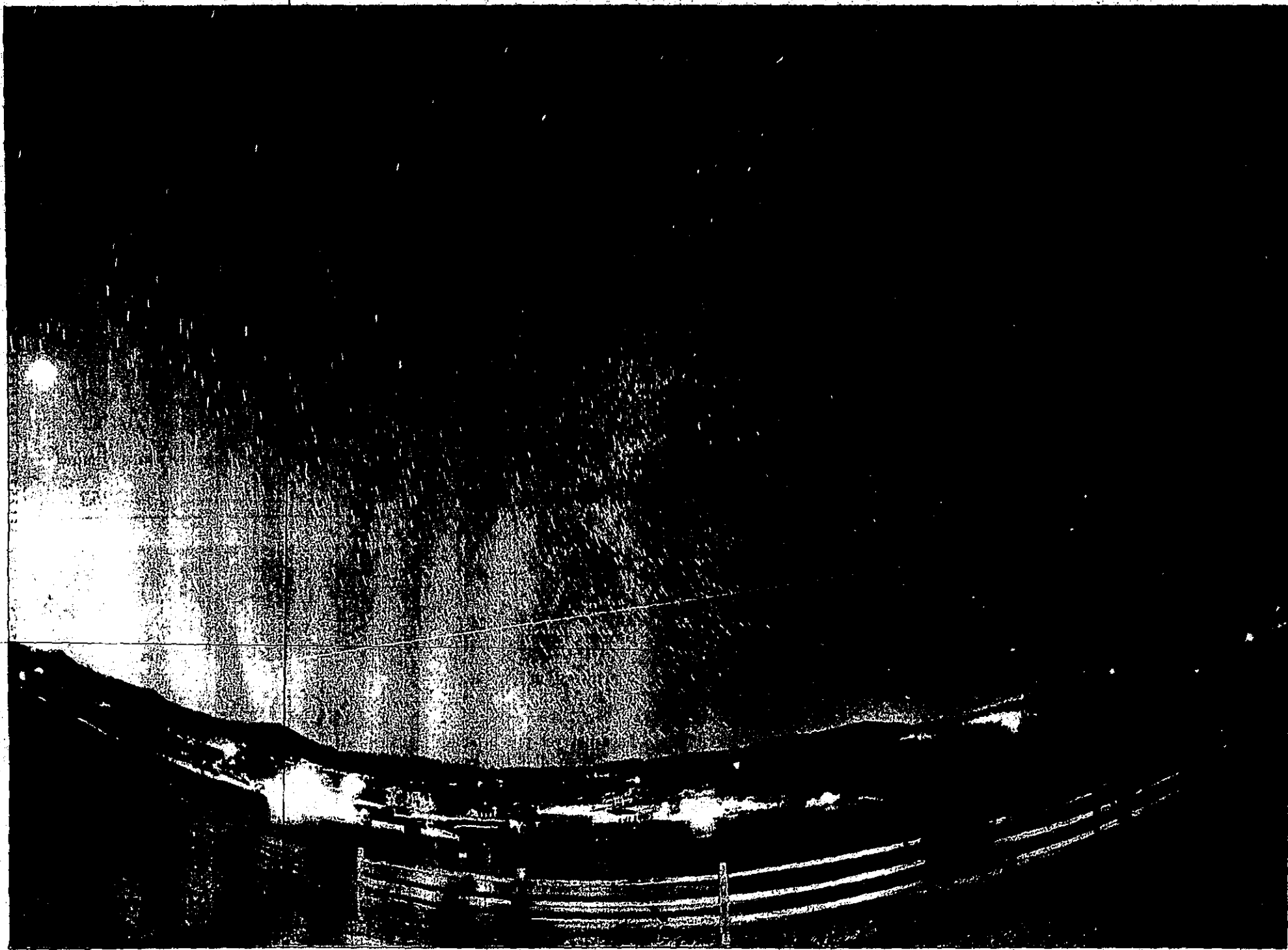
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# THE JEWELLED SKY



COURTESY DAVID TREMBLAY

A three-minute exposure with a 15 mm lens using a Canon Mk III 1DS, 21 mega pixel full frame sensor, reveals the International Space Station passing through the Milky Way at lower center. Polaris, the brightest star in the constellation Ursa Minor and the current northern pole star, is on the right about a third of the way down. Venus is at left and the Sacramento Mountains are on the lower left. The shadows of the photographer and his wife are earthbound on the fence overlooking the Rancho Ruidoso area northeast of Ruidoso.

## Who is Susan Phillips?

Coming Soon!

### El Gran Pollo

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## Free mulch available at two sites

DIANNE STALLINGS  
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

Free mulch, a community pay-back gift from Sierra Contracting through its contract with the village of Ruidoso, will be available at two sites.

"This is New Mexico Department of Transportation specification erosion control compost," explained Van Patton with Sierra.

"It takes about six to 12 months to make. The raw feed stock is the village green waste and is collected curbside and transported to our facility for composting.

"The process takes three steps. First, a pass through 600 horse power Vermeer horizontal grinder. There is no size limitation on the logs or waste. We operate the equipment as needed to process large tree sections or even stumps."

The fresh ground feed stock is put into a curing pile and water is added, if needed. "This pile will cure



MARTY RACHME/RUIDOSO NEWS

A resident shovels mulch at the soccer complex off Hull Road. The mulch is free through the village's contract with Sierra Contracting of Ruidoso Downs.

for the before-mentioned time depending on natural moisture and ambient air temperatures and how soon the finished product is needed," he said.

"The next step is another pass through the grinder to a second curing pile. The

piles are probed for the temperatures necessary to kill weed seed and maintain the composting process until the product is ready for sizing.

The material is then put through (a screening plant) to size as mulch or as a

finer compost for use on turf grass, golf courses, ball parks or for gardens."

The mulch give-back program will continue until further notice, Patton said.

"The (White Mountain) soccer complex (off Hull Road) has mulch on hand, and until the end of March, it will be available at School House Park near the new fire station (at Sudderth Drive and Paradise Canyon). It's all free," he said.

People can pick up mulch at the Sierra yard east of Ruidoso Downs on U.S. 70.

"Or we will load you up for a nominal loading charge or even deliver larger quantities for a small delivery charge," Patton said.

Sierra Contracting turns 14 years old this spring and has been the diversion point for about 600,000 cubic yards of green waste, he said.

"That is the equivalent of some 6,000 semi-trailer truck loads of green waste, helping to make Lincoln County the No. 1 recycling county in New Mexico in 2007," he said.

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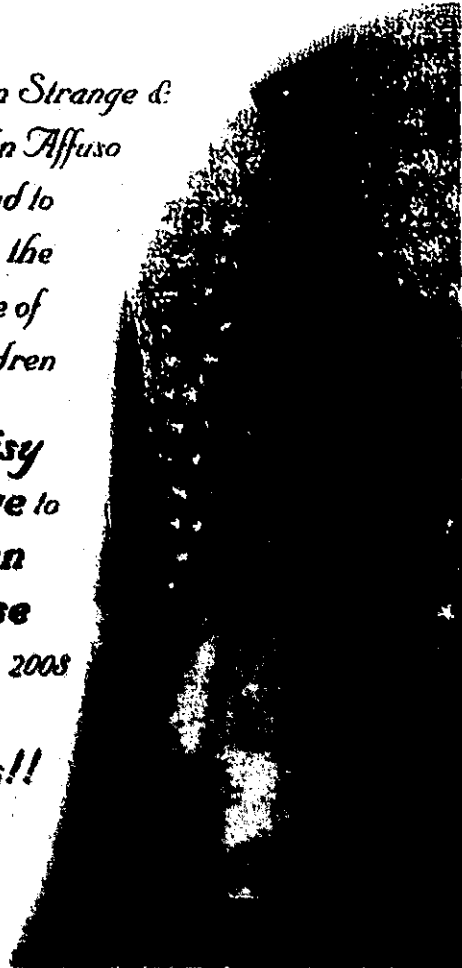
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# SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21, 2009

CALL US: MIKE CURRAN, SPORTS EDITOR • 257-4001 • MCCRAN@RUIDOSONEWS.COM

PAGE 1B

side  
line

## Ski Report

**Ski Apache**  
Officially opened Nov. 27 — For the latest snow totals, call 257-9001. The Ski report is culled from [www.skiapachesnowreport.com](http://www.skiapachesnowreport.com).  
**Tickets:** Season passes are available by phone at 464-3600.  
**Now snow past 48 hrs.:** 0 inches  
**Season total:** 34 inches  
**Mid-mountain snow depth:** 24 inches  
**Weather for Wednesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 62. West wind between 5 and 10 mph. Wednesday evening, mostly cloudy, with a low around 33. West wind between 5 and 10 mph.  
**Weather for Thursday:** A 10 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 57. West wind between 10 and 20 mph. Thursday evening, a 40 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 33.  
**Current conditions:** Packed powder, machine groomed  
**Skiing conditions:** Variable  
**Groomed runs:** Easy Street, Bunry, East Easy Street, Ramp, SBT, Snow Park, Lower Deep Freeze, Captain Life and Smokey Bear.  
**Groomers Pick:** Captain Life  
**Lifts open:** No. 2 (opened to Midway), No. 3, No. 4, 5 and No. 8. Gondola is closed.  
**Snowmaking:** Yes, nightly, weather permitting

## Web exclusive

Check out [www.ruidosonews.com](http://www.ruidosonews.com) for video on this story

MIKE CURRAN

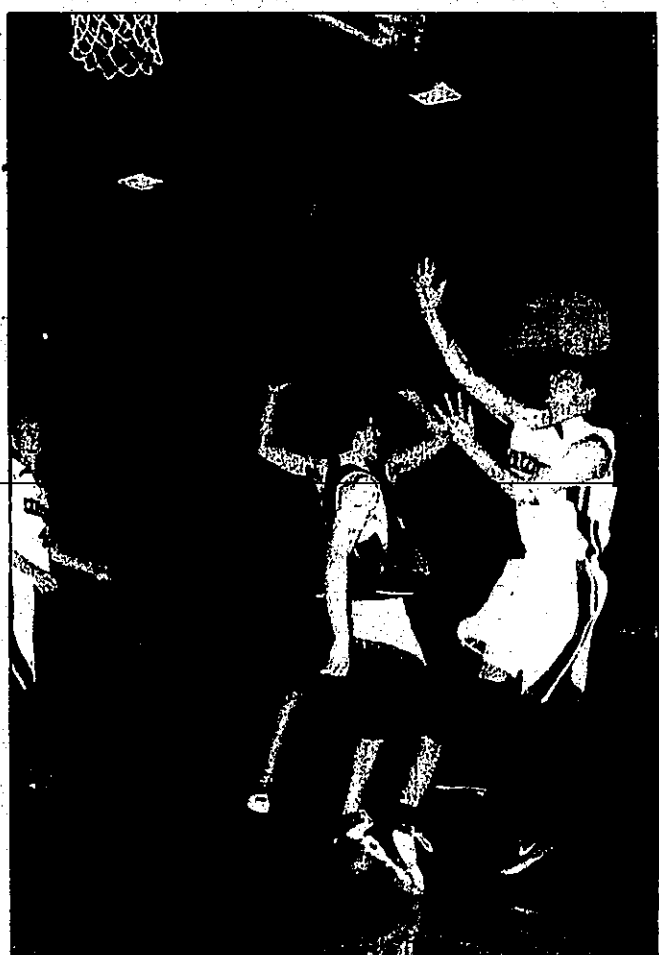
[mcurran@ruidosonews.com](mailto:mcurran@ruidosonews.com)

Saturday proved to be a good day on the hardwood for both Carrizozo varsity teams. The girls' squad took down Mountainair, 35-28, and the boys followed that up with a 49-32 win over the visiting Mustangs.

Beforehand, the girls' and boys' JV teams took the floor with the Lady Grizzlies losing to Mountainair, 34-20, and the boys losing a tough one in the last few seconds of play, 29-28. Both JV squads gave a good account of themselves and show future promise in the seasons to come.

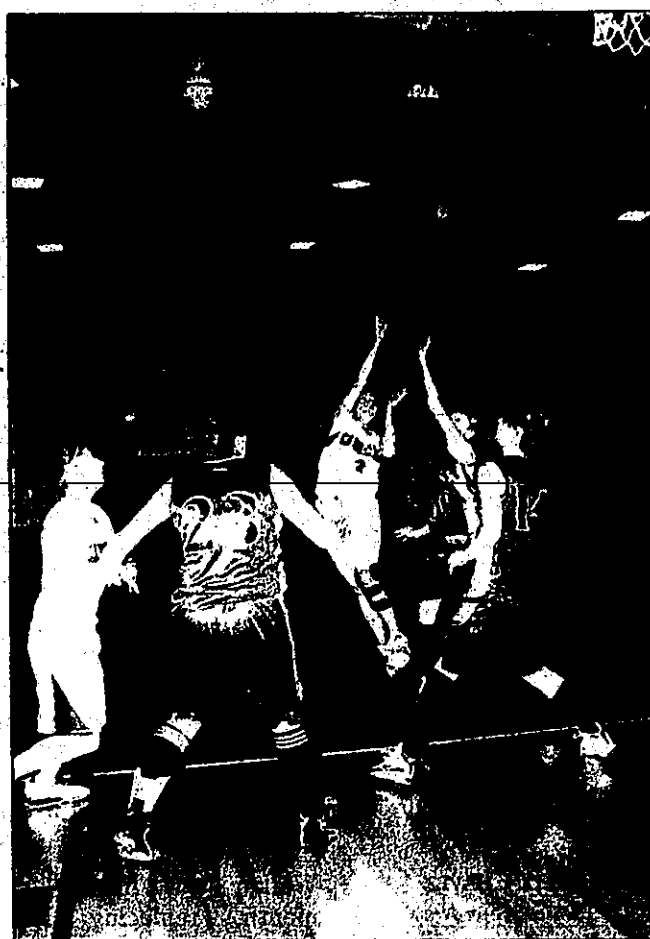
The Lady Grizzlies start-

See Zozo, page 2B



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Jeremy Zamora takes a pass in 'Zozo's 49-22 win Saturday.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Stephanie Zamora attempts a long bucket in the Lady Grizzlies' 35-28 victory over the Mountainair Lady Mustangs.

## Results

### Boys Basketball

Friday, Jan. 16  
Ruidoso 62, Robertson 48  
Saturday, Jan. 17  
Carrizozo 49, Mountainair 32  
Mountainair 29, Carrizozo JV 28  
Cliff 70, Hondo 27

### Girls Basketball

Friday, Jan. 16  
Ruidoso 79, Coora 38  
Corona 50, Monte del Sol 36  
Saturday, Jan. 17  
Carrizozo 35, Mountainair 28  
Mountainair 34, Carrizozo JV 20

## Sports On Tap

### Boys Basketball

Wednesday, Jan. 21  
New Life Baptist Academy at Corona, 6:30 p.m.  
Thursday, Jan. 22  
Hondo at Vaughn, 5 p.m.  
Friday, Jan. 23  
Portales at Ruidoso, 7 p.m.  
Lordsburg at Capitan, 6 p.m.  
Tatum at Mesalero, 7 p.m.  
Saturday, Jan. 24  
Carrizozo at Cloudcroft, 5 p.m.  
Monday, Jan. 26  
Goddard JV at Hondo, 6:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, Jan. 27  
Ruidoso at Dexter, 7 p.m.  
Carrizozo at Vaughn, 4 p.m.  
Valley Christian Academy at Mesalero, 7 p.m.

### Girls Basketball

Wednesday, Jan. 21  
New Life Baptist Academy at Corona, 5 p.m.  
Thursday, Jan. 22  
Hondo at Vaughn, 5 p.m.  
Friday, Jan. 23  
Lordsburg at Capitan, 4:30 p.m.  
Tatum at Mesalero, 4 p.m.  
Saturday, Jan. 24  
Artesia at Ruidoso, 7 p.m.  
Carrizozo at Cloudcroft, 3:30 p.m.  
Monday, Jan. 26  
NMMI at Hondo, 5 p.m.  
Tuesday, Jan. 27  
Ruidoso at Portales, 7 p.m.  
Carrizozo at Vaughn, 4 p.m.  
Valley Christian Academy at Mesalero, 5:30 p.m.

## On Deck

### Free Throw Competition

On Saturday, Jan. 24, the Knights of Columbus, Father Michael J. McGivney Council #6597, will hold their annual Free Throw Competition in the Ruidoso Middle School Gym. The contest is open to boys and girls, ages 10-14 years old. Please bring birth certificate or other proof of age. Registration at 11 a.m. with competition to begin at noon. For additional info, call David Tetraut at 257-9558.

### Men's Adult Baseball

There will be a men's adult baseball meeting in Roswell, Saturday, Jan. 31, at 2 p.m. at McDonald's North. Ages 18-74 may apply as well as 17-year-olds with signed parent consent papers. League games will take place from Hobbs to Lovington. Practice will start in mid-April and may take place in Ruidoso. For more info, call Robert Reynolds at 623-8834.

## And the Super Bowl winner is ...

So my hometown boys come through again. It was fun for me to see the Steelers take down the Baltimore Ravens, 23-14.

I had nothing invested in the contest so I could just sit there, for once, and watch the game like most normal people.

It was the third time this year they beat the Ravens, which in itself is quite a feat because the Baltimore boys are a talented squad. The "Stillers" (Pittsburghese, for Steelers) defense held the visitors to 198 total yards — with only 73 yards rushing on 25 carries.

The defense was

impressive. Especially when safety Troy Polamalu returned a 40-yard left in the contest for a game-clinching TD.

It reminded me of the Steel Curtain years in the '70s when the Steelers topped four Super Bowls in the space of six years.

If you would have lived in that city before Chuck Noll came to town you, too, would be happy for the team.

For many, many years they were the laughing stock of the NFL. And it figured, too.

Back in early 1933, Art Rooney won \$3,500 on a horse race and that's the

money he used to form the team, originally called the Pittsburgh Pirates.

He was a prince of a guy and fortunately lived to see his team win four Super Bowls.

As for Arizona, they're the first nine-win team to make it to the big show since the Rams lost to the Steelers in 1979.

They're the Cinderella team of the year and a lot of people will be on them. And there are some good reasons for that.

They've scored at least 30 points in all three playoff games against, the Eagles, Carolina Panthers and Atlanta Falcons.

It'll also be a battle between the coaches, Mike Tomlin of the Steelers and Ken Whisenhunt of the Cards.

I'm a superstitious sort

and that last one bothers me.

Whisenhunt only went to Arizona after he was passed over for the Pittsburgh head-coaching job.

He was the offensive coordinator there when the Steelers won their last Super Bowl three years ago. He knows them well.

Still, in all, I don't think the Cards have faced a great defense this season like Pittsburgh.

To me, defense is the key, just like great pitching beats good hitting. And when the Steelers are on top of their game that's what they're known for — a brutal defense.

I'll never forget Super Bowl IX in 1975. It was the Steelers first appearance ever in the big show.

Pittsburgh beat up on

the Minnesota Vikings, 16-6.

But the final score didn't really tell how badly the Steelers crushed the Vikings.

Tarkenton was held to just 11 completions out of 26 attempts for 102 yards and the Steelers tied a record for the least number of first downs passing (five).

They held the Vikes to 119 total yards of offense — including only 17 rushing yards.

And they accomplished that feat after replacing linebacker greats Jack Lambert and Andy Russell for most of the second half.

After the Steelers won Sunday, I knew I would be getting a phone call within the next few days

See SUPER, page 2B

## WAC: Boise hopes to have Sanchez back

JASON GROVES  
Las Cruces Sun-News

Boise State's leading scorer and rebounder didn't practice on Monday.

The Broncos could be without senior center Mark Sanchez when New Mexico State travels

to Boise, Idaho, for a Western Athletic Conference men's basketball game Thursday between a pair of teams who are each 3-2 in conference play.

On Monday, Broncos coach Greg Graham said the 6-foot-7 Sanchez hasn't practiced since injuring an ankle in a freak occurrence early in the Broncos' 79-65 loss at Utah State on

Saturday.

"The swelling is going down and we will see where it goes from there," Graham said.

Sanchez rolled his ankle while inboundng the ball when he stepped on a cameraman on the baseline.

**"He might have been the leading rebounder per minute last year."**

Greg Graham  
Boise State coach

on the guy and came hobbling out of there," Graham said.

"Hopefully it is not too bad. I can't say that I've ever seen anything like that where a guy gets hurt and then couldn't play anymore. Usually you roll an

ankle on someone's foot or something in the lane."

After transferring from Pima Community College, Sanchez found himself behind Reggie Larry on a senior-laden Broncos club that won the WAC Tournament title and reached the NCAA Tournament last year.

"It's a numbers game," Aggies head coach Marvin Menzies said.

"A lot of times the number of minutes played one year isn't a true indication of the ability of a guy who can come in and contribute the next year."

While finding his way this year, Sanchez has managed to lead the Broncos with 19.8 points and 7.3 rebounds per game.

"We weren't quite sure how he would respond to

being the guy night in and night out," Graham said.

"He might have been the leading rebounder per minute last year. We just hoped that when it was his turn, he would step up and he has done that this year."

Menzies entered last year with a question mark at point guard.

Senior Fred Peete eventually stepped into the role and led the Aggies to the WAC Tournament title game.

This year, the Aggies aren't nearly as experienced at the point guard position, but the freshman duo of Terrance Joyner and Herust Laroche has provided stability at the point.

"I think once Fred settled into the position, I think we had stability looking forward, but in the beginning

of this year, we were much more stable in terms of knowing who was playing at that spot on any given night," Menzies said.

Laroche is currently second in the WAC with a 2.57 assist-to-turnover ratio while playing just under 30 minutes per game.

Since becoming eligible, Joyner is playing 12.4 minutes per game in a backup role, but Menzies has given him late-game minutes recently.

"He's a talent so I want to bring him along but I don't want to do so at the expense of the team," Menzies said.

"When I feel like he is giving us good minutes and doing a solid job, I want to ride him, but between him and Herust, we have established a solid point guard for the future."

## Jet Black Patriot attorney speaks

Houston, Jan. 16 - Below is the statement of Richard and Janelle Simon and their attorneys regarding the New Mexico Racing Commission officials' ruling, declaring Jet Black Patriot the winner of the All American Futurity and the postponement of the American Quarter Horse Association Racing Champions Announcements previously scheduled for today.

"The integrity of our sport and the health and protection of the animals which so many of us love, was vindicated last week when a panel of Stewards declared Jet Black Patriot the winner of the 2008 All American Futurity and disqualified Stolis Winner, who was racing with significant amounts of a class 2 banned drug in his blood," said Richard and Janelle Simon of Louisiana.

"The American Quarter Horse Association Racing Champions Announcements, scheduled for earlier this week, was postponed so that the official standings can be awarded to the horses, owners and trainers who complied with the rules of our sport," they said. The postponement of the announcements will allow Jet Black Patriot the recognition due for winning the All American Futurity," said Janelle Simon.

"After the All American Futurity race, all of the horses competing were drug tested. Stolis Winner failed all post-race drug tests for banned class 2 drugs," said Houston Attorney, Robert Fritz who is representing the Simons. "This unfortunate event not only devalues the sport of racing but it also causes the owners and trainers of other horses in the race serious economic damages," said Fritz. "Our clients are pleased that the 2008 All American Futurity finish has been reordered so that Jet Black Patriot will be awarded the winning finish which he fairly deserves," he said.

"Thankful that the New Mexico Racing Officials are enforcing the rules and protecting the integrity of racing in New Mexico, the Simons will pursue their lawsuit in the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas to recover from the owners and trainers of Stolis Winner the economic damages caused by their lack of compliance with the rules of racing," said Chad Dunn, an attorney with the Simons' legal team.

## ZOZO

FROM PAGE 1B

ed out on a slow note and found themselves knotted with Mountainair, 5-5, at the end of the first quarter.

By halftime, the hometown girls took command and grabbed a 16-10 advantage by the time they hit the locker rooms.

At the end of three quarters they maintained the lead, 23-19, and won going away by 6.

The boys varsity squad was not to be denied either. At the half they pounded out a 28-13 lead, kept the heat on throughout the third, and took a 36-25 advantage going into the last eight minutes of play.

The Grizzlies kept their intensity in the last period of action and won by 17.

Both games found the stands packed with clamoring fans on both sides.

Head coach Ron Becker received knee replacement surgery Dec. 30 and has been out of action in the interim.

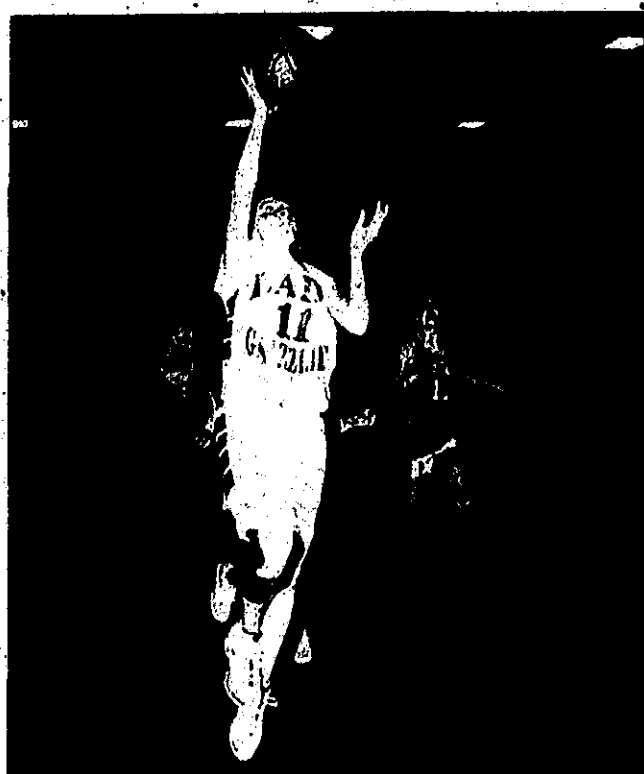
Assistant coach Pam Allen has taken over the reins in the meantime.

"I called Mr. Becker in Albuquerque after the games," Allen said. "He was excited both varsity teams won."

"The Carrizozo kids did an excellent job of getting ready for the Mountainair contests. They were obviously ready for the demands at hand and played hard, especially defensively."

"Anytime they perform well, I'm thrilled."

Earlier, Thursday, both varsity squads defeated Vaughn at home. The girls won, 55-18, and the boys



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Dakota Webb drives for two in the JV's 34-20 loss.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

JV player Austin Walker heads for the paint while Don Myers moves up to assist.

came out on top, 54-25. Both teams now stand 2-0 in district play.

Both varsity squads

travel to Cloudcroft Saturday where the girls will start at 3:30 p.m. and the boys at 5:30.

## LCHS QB visits NMSU

FELIX CHAVEZ  
Las Cruces Sun-News

Former Las Cruces High School quarterback Dante Caro said he had a good visit to New Mexico State University last weekend.

The 6-foot, 175-pounder took his first of two official visits and said he liked what he saw of the new coaching staff.

Former UCLA defensive coordinator DeWayne

Walker was hired last month, replacing Hal Mumme.

"Coach Walker is a good coach and he has a lot to offer. I really like the new staff as a whole," said Caro, who was LCHS' starting quarterback in 2007 and 2008.

Caro said he will likely play defensive back or wide receiver in college. He did play in the defensive backfield while on the

Bulldawgs football team. Las Cruces High won the Class 5A state football title last month with a 26-21 win against Eldorado.

"Dante has a great deal of potential at the next level at several positions," LCHS assistant coach Mark Lopez said. "I know there is a lot of talk about him at wide receiver or defensive back but if he is in the right system, he could definitely play QB."

## SUPER

FROM PAGE 1B

from the Steel City. I love

the people there but you have to know, many of them whine, even in good times.

I think it's a Northeastern thing. And I'm

guilty of that trait, too.

Early Monday morning my pal Bobby "I" called from "da Burgh."

"Mikey, I hate it when Pittsburgh's in the Super Bowl. They came out of the gate as 6 1/2-point favorites and I knew I was in for trouble."

"I made the Pittsburgh line -7 and that didn't stop any of them. I think they're a bunch of crazed mokes."

"Why's that, Bobby?"

"I could make the line 7 1/2 and most of them would still go down on the

Stillers.

"But that wouldn't be the stand-up thing to do."

"Yeah, but Bobby, I see where most of the people west of the Mississippi River are rooting for the Cards. Lay all your excess off there. What's the problem?"

"I know, that's true, but it'll take me hours of phone calls to even my book."

"But Bobby, didn't you always tell me that what you do isn't any different than any other job - it takes hard work to make

it in any profession?"

"Shut up, Michael. The other phone's ringin' and I gotta go."

So, who'll win the big game, Feb. 1, in Tampa?

Will the Steelers be the first to win six Super Bowls?

If I were clairvoyant I'd be living in Monte Carlo, that's for sure.

But if Arizona can't figure out a way to break through Pittsburgh's offensive line and get to Ben Roethlisberger it might be a long day for the Cards.

Their so-so 9-7 season

mark leaves something to be desired, too.

Even though the Steelers won't have home field advantage, they will have a large group of fans on hand, trust me.

Plane flights from the Steel City to Florida are cheap and quick.

Arizona didn't get to where they are by mere luck, but this one's for all the marbles.

And Pittsburgh's been there six times before.

Even Cinderella's gala ball came to a crashing halt.

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**DOLLY**

Dolly is a cute kitten, a bit on the shy side, though. She has unique markings with small specks of orange in her black coat. Dolly is about 14 weeks old now and will need some TLC for her to really come out of her shell.

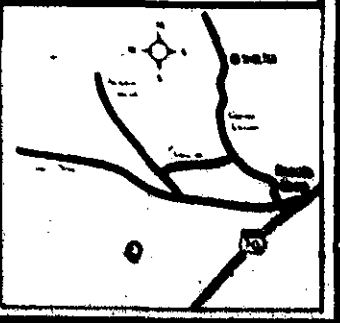
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# LINCOLN COUNTY

PAGE 4B

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WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21, 2009

## 'Zozo makes neighborly water sale

JULIE CARTER  
jcarter@ruidosoneus.com

The 28 families served by the Nogal water system see some needed relief as the Carrizozo trustees voted to sell them annually 10 acre feet of Bonito water.

The Nogal Mutual Domestic Water Users Association has applied for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for funding for a new surface water filtration system that will allow for consumption of the Bonito water.

The water is delivered via a pipeline that runs from Bonito Lake through Nogal and Carrizozo en route to Alamogordo.

According to Carrizozo Mayor Bob Hemphill, the chances of Nogal getting the necessary funding are greatly increased if the association had more water to deliver to customers. With a non-functioning and antiquated water filtration system, the community relies on one domestic well to supply all 28 families that forces extreme conservation measures.

Rick Rotert, president of the water association, said that the Nogal association has 1.45 acre feet of surface water rights from Bonito Lake as well as 6 acre feet from the domestic well.



JULIE CARTER/RUIDOSO NEWS

Nogal Water Users Association President Rick Rotert thanked the Carrizozo mayor and trustees for the water purchase agreement to help Nogal with its water deficit.

The additional 10 acre feet purchased from Carrizozo would exceed the minimum of 15 acre feet needed to request grant money.

The process of coming to an agreement for the sale of the water has been a year-long project to find a way to help the neighboring community.

The agreement, read by the mayor to the council and meeting guests at last

week's Carrizozo council meeting, outlines the quantity and quality of the water.

The raw, untreated, non-potable water will be measured by the City of Alamogordo's meter and no water shall be used except for domestic residential purposes and for fire suppression.

The association agrees to pay the Town of Carrizozo for the water it

diverts at 40 cents per thousand gallons, which is twice what Carrizozo pays for it. The water is to be paid for annually, on or before Jan. 31, of the following calendar year.

The 99-year agreement became effective Jan. 13, 2009, and is subject to termination by the Nogal association with 30-days of advance written notice. The agreement did address water availability with the Town of Carrizozo consumers having priority for the supply should it become inadequate.

It also determined that if Nogal meets its 40-year water plan, requirements of 15-acre feet/year from other sources, the agreement with Carrizozo is subject to termination.

Rotert told the council that the Southeastern Economic Development District had selected Nogal to be the 200 CDBG project. "That will be a big help to us if we get some funding," he said. "The funding is not guaranteed, but at least the plight of your neighbors in Nogal has been noticed."

Thanking the mayor and trustees for working out an agreement beneficial to both Carrizozo and Nogal, Rotert said, "This is the best kind of agreement because I'm sure it will be mutually beneficial."

## Arden's home run

This story was told to me and it's a story of such human greatness that I had to share it.

Arden is an undersized fellow due to his early years of malnutrition in an orphanage in another country.

He was the youngest of a family of eight with an ungainly gait, glasses and a hesitant grin.

His parents put him in T-Ball and even with his physical handicaps, he was part of the "team," which he enjoyed immensely.

When Arden came to bat, he usually had to "walk," but low and behold one day he actually hit the ball.

A stunned silence followed. No one was more surprised than Arden.

Someone in the crowd started yelling, "Go, Arden, Go!"

The crowd of parents took up the chant. "Go Arden, Go!"

The pitcher took the ball and pitched it way over first base.

First baseman got the ball, dropped the ball and finally threw it to second, while Arden loomed to second.

The second baseman dropped the ball, recovered and then somehow misguessed and threw the ball out in the field.

A cluster of misadventures ensued until the ball was thrown to third. Third baseman missed the ball while Arden lumbered to third and on to "home."

The crowd went wild. Everyone stood and cheered as Arden, with his ungainly lope, headed

for home plate. Again the ball was thrown wild as Arden got his home run.

Both teams rushed in and gave the beaming Arden "high fives."

No one remembers who won or lost that day, but what they do remember is that Arden got a home run.

These kids were not coached to do this but somehow, with little Arden trying

so hard to be part of the team, he had earned their respect and no matter whose team they were on, they wanted Arden to make it to home.

It's times like these that make you so proud of the hometown kids.

You hear stories of the parents breaking out in cussing matches and fistcuffs at games. Then you hear a story like this that makes you smile and believe in human kindness again.

There is a quote: "Be nice to everyone you meet, because they might be fighting a hard battle." That day, Arden won.

But I think about the little heroes that let that happen. Those kids who threw wild, the ones who dropped the ball, the kids who took their time picking up the ball.

They also "won" that day, because for a minute, they realized there was something more important than winning the game.

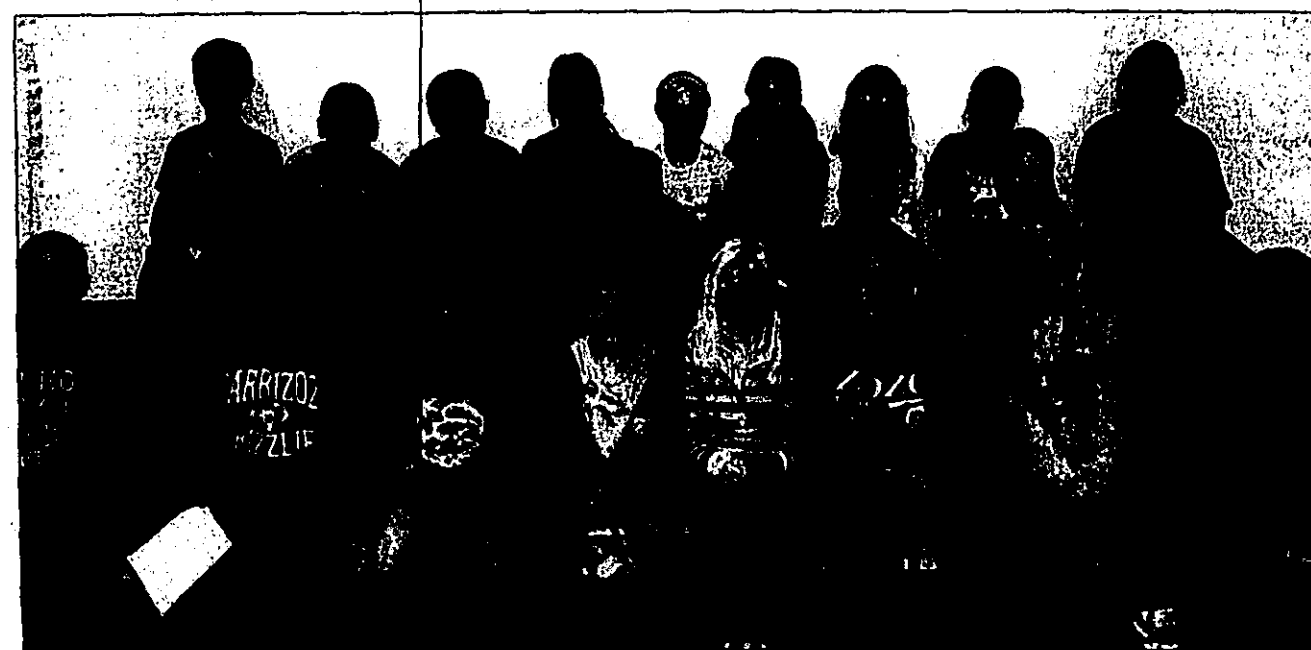
Have a nice day and don't forget to drop the ball if it means someone else gets to have a home run.

Winning is good for all of us.



Wilda McKinley Grider

## CARRIZOZO ¡BRAVO!



COURTESY

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**Carrizozo Schools November ¡BRAVO! winners are:** Top photo, grades K-2. Front row: Julian Garcia, Jacob Parkhurst, Dalton King, Sydney Zamora, Tazia Swift, Keegan Gattis, Samantha Chavez, Suniana Zamora, Joanna Vega, Kaitlin Guevara and Gabby Mason. Second row: Orion Wyatt, Rystyn Lueras, Nicole Swearingen, D'anna Willingham, Nathan Montes, Robert Gonzales, Bo Perry, Daniel Daugherty, James Gonzales, Duncan Daugherty and Marcus Vallejos. Top row: Sebastian Montano, Samantha Miller, Detrick Miller, Dominic Barela, Jared Guevara, Aurora Vega, Savannah Sanchez, Patrick Hooten, John Wyatt Hemphill, Noah Duggar and Austin Vega. Not pictured: Tristen Barela. Grades 3-5: Front row: Cody Carter, Kadee Sedillo, Janae Willingham, Emily Comstock, Hannah Perry, Lindsay Chavez, Dana LaMay and Anthony Vallejos. Second row: Haley Aubrey, Garrison Ventura, Xavier Zamora, Victor Najera, Dillon Najera, Isaac Ogden, Marcus Campbell and Tyrrell Barela. Top row: Angel Miller-Barela, Steven Archuleta, Mikhal Barela, Hannah Ventura, Kristie Gallacher, Gracie Hoppen, Lashee Lueras, Adrianna Samora and Lexi Zamora.

## Tippin sets recycle goal

JULIE CARTER  
jcarter@ruidosoneus.com

Capitan's recycle king, O' George Tippin, reported his annual collection total to the Capitan council last week.

Tippin said that between March and December, the little box in the post office used for waste paper (advertisements, flyers and junk mail) netted 4,483 pounds.

Tippin said he empties the box two or three times a day to keep up with demand. He now has a wagon to haul it away in because of the weight involved.

The goal for 2009 set by Tippin is to collect 6,000 pounds. He said he also collected 1,244 phone books and that people are leaving sacks of magazines and catalogs in his driveway.

WWC/Ruidoso Paving won the 2009 gravel/base course contract with Capitan.

Two bidders submitted prices. Bonnell Sand and Gravel bid \$17.50/ton delivered to Capitan and Ruidoso Paving's bid came in at \$12.35/ton, also deliv-

ered to Capitan.

The Capitan Chamber of Commerce reapplied for \$1,200 from the Lodger's Tax fund for use for the Rural Lincoln County Business and Tourist Guide brochures.

The money had been given to the Chamber once before for the same use, but it was not utilized within the year so it was put back in the Lodgers Tax fund. The council approved the the new request for the same amount.

The purchase of a second new vehicle for the Capitan Police Department was approved by the council.

Discussion was given to the status of Capitan Village funds in the New Mexico Investment Pool. Under current market fluctuations, the money is still making a minimal amount and the trustees agreed to leave it where it is at this time.

No action was taken after the executive session to discuss pending litigation.

The next regular meeting of the Village of Capitan council will be Feb. 10, at 6:30 p.m.

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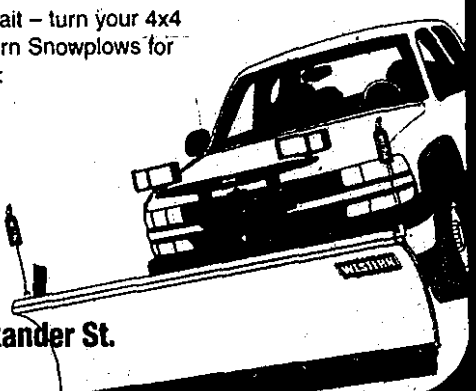
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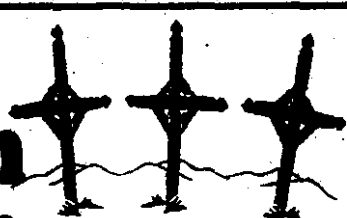
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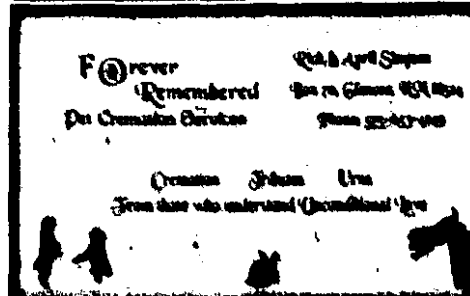
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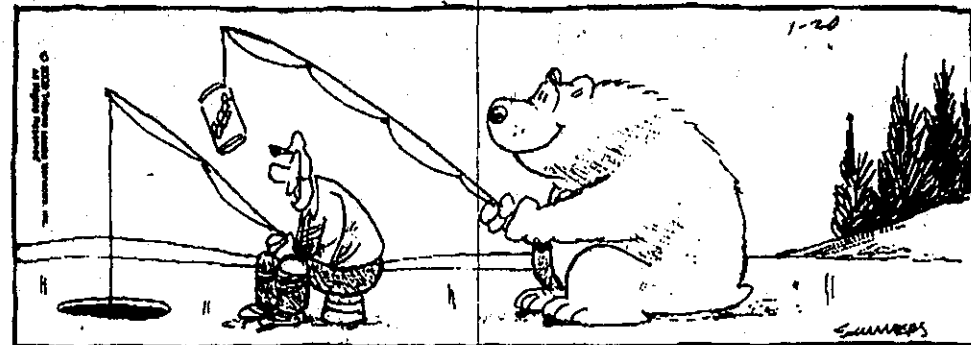
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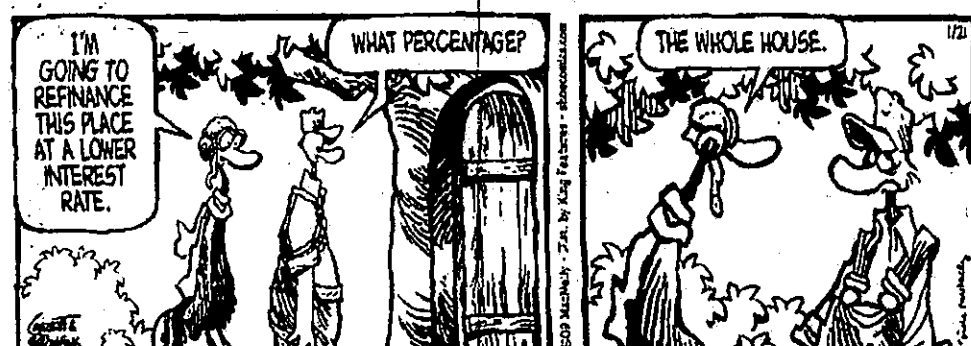
**Thunder Mesa Construction**



BOUND & GAGGED



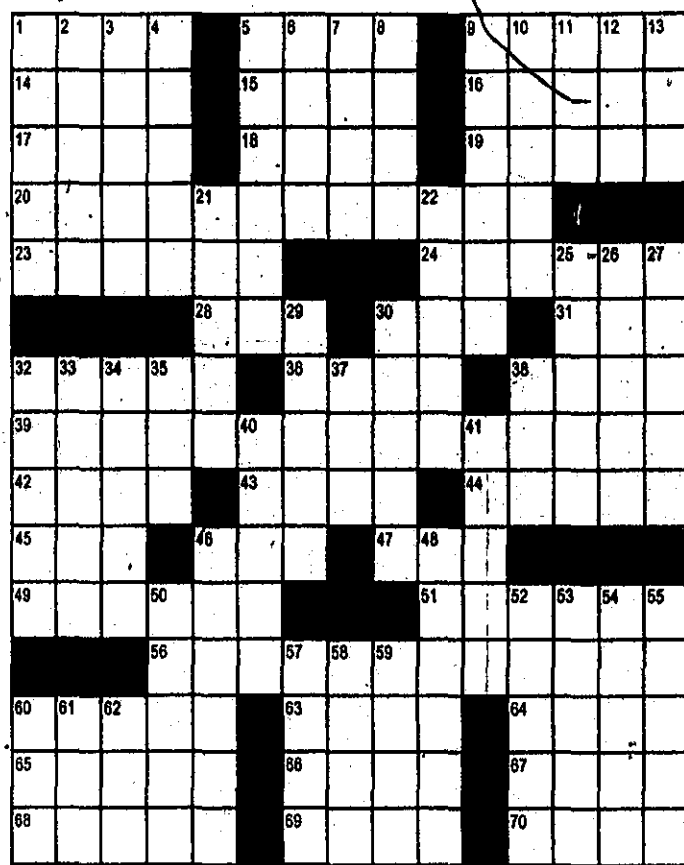
SHOE



ACROSS

1. To-do list item
5. "Animal House" house
9. "Once bitten, ..."
14. Height: Prefix
15. A Simpson kid
16. "Ready ..."
17. Horse coloring
18. MBA subj.
19. Puts together
20. Ruthian nickname
23. Thumb twiddlers
24. Law school class
28. ... culpa
30. Mideast org.
31. Tour book feature
32. Knock for a loop
36. "Gentlemen, Prefer Blondes" writer
38. Made the scene
39. Shortened firearm
42. ...-Contra affair
43. Lo-cal
44. French seaport
45. NE or SW
46. Sidewalk stand-buy
47. Troy, NY sch.
49. Salad green
51. Lake source of the Mississippi
56. Bloodhound's asset
60. Salvage ship's equipment
63. Steak, on some menus
64. Stone of many Libras
65. Rap sheet word
66. Like slander, vis-à-vis libel
67. Basilica part
68. British coppers
69. Dixie bread
70. Secluded valley

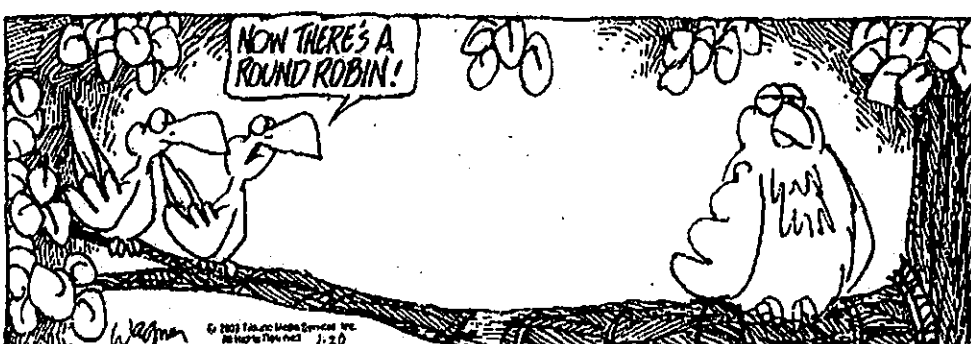
"Help!"



DOWN

1. Ankle bones
2. One-way to think
3. Play for time
4. Kunta ... ("Roots" role)
5. Defat, whaler-style
6. "Little Caesar" role
7. Beginning on
8. Summer shades
9. Heckler's missile
10. Burning rage
11. Tattooist's supply
12. Cedar Rapids college
13. UFO occupants
21. Ready for battle
22. Cardiff-born
25. Spin doctor's concern
26. "The Stranger" author
27. Tuckered out
29. Jude Law or Michael Caine title role
30. Tough problem
32. Out of the way
33. Cheech of Cheech & Chong
34. Obie or Emmy
35. Meditative sect
37. Frequently, to a bard
38. NBA or NFL pos.
40. Of days gone by
41. Articles in black borders
46. Strongly opposed
48. "Hogwash!"
50. Hayes or Newton
52. In the thick of
53. Calyx part
54. Piece of Latin percussion
55. "Candid Camera" creator Funt
57. Metro map feature
58. Trevi fountain throw-in
59. Algerian port
60. Source of syrup
61. Soccer stadium cheer
62. Diarist Anais

ANIMAL CRACKERS



SCRABBLE G R A M S

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A	I	Y	L	S	F	F
I	O	U	D	M	T	C
A	E	O	U	N	R	T
A	I	I	G	G	N	M

PAR SCORE 145-155  
BEST SCORE 208

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 4th Edition.

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JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

I	T	U	S	E	
C	A	U	D	T	
S	H	U	L	O	C
E	N	P	O	T	

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Mike Arglion and Jeff Krueck



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

A	I	Y	L	S	F	F
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

SUDOKU

THE SACRAMENT OF PUZZLES By The Mapham Group

					2	1	5
2	3				4		
5		8		6			
7	8				1		
			5		1		
3	1					9	7
			9	2		6	
	8					5	4
4	9	7					

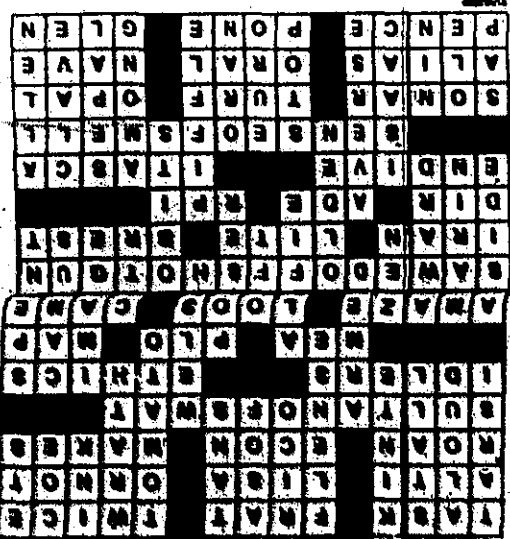
Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [www.sudoku.org.uk](http://www.sudoku.org.uk)

SOLUTION TO TODAY'S PUZZLE

8	7	6	4	3	2	1	5
2	3	1	5	4	8	9	7
5	4	8	2	6	3	7	1
7	8	3	1	9	5	2	6
6	5	2	9	1	8	7	4
3	1	9	2	7	6	5	8
4	9	7	8	3	1	5	2
2	6	1	7	5	4	3	8

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PAR SCORE 145-155  
BEST SCORE 208

A	I	Y	L	S	F	F
I	O	U	D	M	T	C
A	E	O	U	N	R	T
A	I	I	G	G	N	M

Jumble: SUITE DUCAT SLOUCH POTENT  
Answer: THE BUTCHER WAS LET GO BECAUSE HE ...





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DOE


# RHY



# START



# START



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**Figure 1**

14